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GREETINGS TO THE RUSSIAN ARTISTS WHO ASSISTED IN THE OVERTHROW OF THE RUSSIAN AUTOCRACY

THE Hudson Theatre was packed by citizens on the afternoon of April 23rd who came to listen and applaud an address of congratulation to the authors, artists and composers of Russia on the part of the authors, artists and composers of America under the auspices of the National Institute of Arts and Letters. Mr. Augustus Thomas, President of the Institute, presided.

After stating the purpose of the meeting the President read a letter from the Hon. Elihu Root, late United States Senator and former Secretary of State and of War in which he said:

"Turbulent and untrained spirits within and sinister and corrupt intrigue from without will encourage dissension and seek to destroy the new democracy by creating those divisions and controversies which paralyze power. Faint hearts will be discouraged, and even the wisest will be often in doubt; but the power of democracy will prevail. Russia will not divide or be led astray, because the unity and stability of a forward-moving purpose will be hers."

Mr. Thomas then showed that a clairvoyant could have predicted the Russian Revolution when Gutenberg invented movable type; when Watts invented the steam engine; when Fulton invented the steamboat; when Morse invented the electric telegraph, all helping the spread of ideas and the clarifying of thought and the uniting of the world in a common aspiration for justice and liberty.

Mr. George Kennan, whose exposé of the horrors of Siberia and the cruelty of the Russian autocracy has made him truly famous, spoke feelingly of the appropriateness of the occasion that our authors, artist and composers should greet their fellow workers in the world of art in Russia; he told the story of the sufferings and official murder of nearly a hundred men of genius who had labored for the liberation of Russia.

Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, President of Columbia University, then showed the rapid growth of the Democratic Ideal from the day nearly a century and a half ago when Jean-Jacques Rousseau, through his singular power of presenting things, gave to the world in clear and fascinating language the sublime side of Democracy. He also warned our Russian fellow-Republicans that personal and national self-discipline was the only guarantee of the endurance and progressive perfection of Democracy to a condition to make it a permanent, durable state of society.

Following the address Mr. Ashley H.

Thorndyke, Secretary of the Institute, read the address which will be sent to Russia as follows:

THE UNDERSIGNED, AMERICAN AUTHORS, ARTISTS AND COMPOSERS, TO THEIR TRIUMPHANT COMRADES OF RUSSIA, GREETING:

We rejoice with you in the success of the recent Revolution, by which, once for all, a death blow has been given to Russian autocracy by the courage, the devotedness and the wise moderation of the leaders of the people, insuring to your great country the blessings of representative government.

We congratulate you on this result the more particularly because, like you, we are not merely practitioners of our several arts but citizens of the great world of idealism, which through the long and desperate contest for a Free Russia you have so nobly represented by your loyalty to the spirit of liberty.

With you we honor the names of those great writers and other artists no longer living who have contributed so largely to this result by their vision and their courage, and whose fame will forever be a cherished possession not only of Russia but of America and of all the rest of civilized mankind.

America welcomes your country to the family of the world's democracies. With one master stroke the leaders of the Russian people have made the greatest reinforcement of half a century to the cause of popular government. Your own contributions to this in sacrifice and wisdom are fortunate omens for the future of your country, and remind us that only by the vigilance of the people can their rights be safeguarded against the intrigues of a reigning caste, long intrenched in power and secrecy. We look forward to the time when your example in throwing off the yoke of tyranny shall inspire other nations with a like resolve.

At this moment, when America is enlisted with Russia and her intrepid allies in combating the last effort of autocracy to maintain its foothold against the tide of democratic aspiration, we extend to you the open hand of fellowship and pledge to you, in the cause of human freedom and brotherhood, our sympathy, our faith and our utmost and unremitting co-operation.

This address was endorsed by the meeting with a standing vote and was then signed by the officers of various literary and artistic societies and others when the meeting dispersed.